

IRONING ORGANIZER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 **[0001]** The subject invention relates to an ironing organizer of the type having arms for supporting the diverging legs of an ironing board and a shelf for supporting an iron and miscellaneous items.

2. Description of the Prior Art

[0002] Ironing organizers of the type to which the instant invention
10 pertains are well known in the prior art. An example of one such prior art organizer is shown in U.S. Design Patent D451, 254 to Egan.

[0003] This type of organizer, wherein a shelf extends forwardly from a backboard, consumes a relatively large volume of space, which is a detriment in a storage or shipping condition as well as a retail store display.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES

[0004] An ironing organizer assembly of this invention comprises a backboard including arms for cradling the legs of an ironing board and a shelf for projecting from the backboard and is characterized by a coupling for removably
20 connecting the shelf to the backboard.

[0005] Accordingly, the subject invention provides an ironing organizer assembly that has a compact storage position for storage and shipping and a unique coupling for connecting the shelf to the backboard in either the cantilevered

position of the shelf or the storage position of the shelf whereby the combination occupies a relatively small volume for storage and shipping.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5 **[0006]** Other advantages of the present invention will be readily appreciated, as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

[0007] Figure 1 is perspective view of the subject invention shown in
10 the storage position and encased in a wrapper for shipment and display;

[0008] Figure 2 is a perspective view of the assembly in the storage position;

[0009] Figure 3 is a perspective view showing the method of mounting to a support structure;

15 **[0010]** Figure 4 is an exploded perspective view showing the mechanical connection of the shelf to the backboard; and

[0011] Figure 5 is a perspective view showing the shelf supported on the backboard in the cantilevered position.

20 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0012] Referring to the Figures, wherein like numerals indicate like or corresponding parts throughout the several views, an ironing organizer assembly is generally shown at **10**.

[0013] The assembly **10** comprises a backboard, generally indicated at **12**, and including arms **14** for cradling the legs of an ironing board (not shown) and a shelf, generally indicated at **16**, for projecting from the backboard **12** in a cantilevered position, as shown in Figure 5.

5 [0014] As shown in Figure 1, a wrapper **18** surrounds the backboard **12** and the shelf **16** in the storage position for shipping and display. The backboard **12** includes an upper shoulder **20** and a nose **22** extending upwardly from the upper shoulder **20** and defining a hole therethrough. The wrapper surrounds the backboard **12** and the shelf **16** in the storage position and engages the upper shoulder **20** and
10 defines an opening **24** with the nose **22** extending therethrough. The wrapper may have information relating to the assembly and use of the assembly for presentation in a retail store as the assembly is hung on a display rack, or the like, via the nose **22** and opening **24**.

[0015] The assembly **10** is characterized by a coupling for removably
15 connecting the shelf **16** to the backboard **12**, either in the overlapping storage position or in the cantilevered position for use.

[0016] The coupling includes a backboard connector, generally indicated at **26**, and a shelf connector, generally indicated at **28**, that mechanically interconnect with one another for supporting the shelf **16** in a cantilevered position
20 extending forwardly from the backboard **12**, as shown in Figure 5. The backboard connector **26** includes a pair of embossments spaced laterally from one another and each having a top **30** and spaced sides **32** with a pair of flanges **34** extending in opposite directions from the sides **32** to define inside grooves facing one another and outside grooves facing towards the ends of the backboard. The shelf connector **28**

includes a pair of C-shaped channels each with a cover **36** and opposing tongues **38** for sliding the tongues **38** into the grooves with each cover **36** engaging one of the tops **30** for supporting the shelf **16** in the cantilevered position. In other words, the covers **36** of the shelf connectors **28** engage and rest upon the tops **30** of the backboard connectors to limit downward movement of the shelf **16** on the embossments **26**. Once in the cantilevered position, the upward movement of the shelf **16** out of the cantilevered position is limited by a pair of detents **40**, i.e., a detent **40** disposed above each of the embossments **26** for engaging the covers **36** of the C-shaped channels for retaining the shelf **16** in the cantilevered position.

10 **[0017]** The shelf **16** includes a shelf surface **42** with a back wall **44** extending between ends and sidewalls **46** having upper and lower edges **48** and **50** extending forwardly from the ends of the back wall **44**. The C-shaped channels are disposed in the back wall **44** and extend into the shelf, i.e., inwardly of the plane of the back wall **44**. The walls **44** and **46** extend above and below the shelf surface **42** and strengthening ribs **52** are disposed on the bottom **60** of the shelf **16** and on the back of the backboard **12** (not shown) as is customary in components molded in plastic material. In addition, the shelf **16** includes a cleat **54** projecting forwardly of the front portion for winding a chord thereabout. For example, an iron may be set upon the shelf with the electrical chord thereof wound around the cleat **54** during non-
15 use. The sidewalls **46** present an opening **56** to the shelf surface **42** just rearward of the cleat **54**.

[0018] Alternatively or in combination, the coupling comprises a retainer for removably supporting the shelf **16** in a storage position extending parallel and in overlapping relationship to the backboard **12**, as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

More specifically, the retainer includes a hanger comprising projections **58** disposed on the shelf **16** for engaging the backboard connector **26** for suspending the shelf **16** in the storage position. The embossments include a bottom **60** at the lower extremity of each of the inside facing grooves and the hanger includes a pair of the projections **58** extending in opposite directions from the shelf **16** for sliding engagement with the inside grooves and resting upon the bottoms **60** for suspending the shelf **16** from the backboard **12** in the storage position, as shown in Figure 2. The shelf **16** defines a front portion **62** more narrow than the distance between the ends of the back wall **44** and less than the distance between the inside grooves with the projections **58** being disposed on opposite sides of the front portion **62** of the shelf **16** and at the lower edges **50** of the sidewalls **46**.

[0019] The retainer may also include at least one and preferably a pair of tabs **64** extending laterally from the shelf **16** for engaging one of the arms **14** in the storage position to retain the shelf **16** inside of the arms **14** and in the parallel relationship to the backboard **12**. The tabs **64** extend laterally from the upper edges **48** of the sidewalls **46** at the ends of the back wall **44**. More specifically, each of the arms **14** projects outwardly from the backboard **12** through an upwardly and inwardly inclined surface **66** for receiving the diverging legs of an ironing board to an inwardly directed finger **68** for retaining the legs on the inclined surface **66** and for overlying one of the tabs **64** when the shelf **16** is in the storage position, as shown in Figure 2.

[0020] A plurality of mounting holes **70** extend thorough the embossments and the backboard **12** for mounting the backboard **12** to a structure as by screws **72** and anchors **74**. The various openings on either side of the embossments are for facilitating the molding of the backboard **12** and removal of the mold dies. The

tapers 76 project out from the backboard 12 and increase in thickness in the downward direction for a wedging action against the back wall 44 of the shelf 16 as the shelf 16 is slid into engagement with the backboard connectors 26.

[0021] As alluded to above, the components are preferably injection
5 molded of an organic polymeric material, i.e., a plastic material. The shelf 16 is placed in the storage or shipping position shown in Figure 2 with the shelf surface 42 facing outward and the projections 58 disposed in the grooves behind the flanges 34 and engaging the bottoms 60 of the embossments. To prevent the shelf 16 from swinging outwardly, the tabs 64 overlap and are retained behind the fingers 68. A
10 wrapper 18 may be placed around the components 12 and 16 in this stored position for shipping and display in a retail store. Upon purchase of the components packaged as shown in Figure 1, the user would remove the shelf 16 from the stored position and slide the tongues 38 into the grooves (as shown in Figure 4) until the covers 36 engage the tops 30 for supporting the shelf 16 in the cantilevered position (as shown
15 in Figure 5). The user may also remove the shelf 16 from the backboard 12 and replace the shelf 16 in the storage position.

[0022] Obviously, many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. The invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described within the scope of the appended claims,
20 wherein that which is prior art is antecedent to the novelty set forth in the “characterized by” clause. The novelty is meant to be particularly and distinctly recited in the “characterized by” clause whereas the antecedent recitations merely set forth the old and well-known combination in which the invention resides. These antecedent recitations should be interpreted to cover 36 any combination in which the

incentive novelty exercises its utility. In addition, the reference numerals in the claims are merely for convenience and are not to be read in any way as limiting.